

[22 March, 2001]

RAJYA SABHA

**Market Price of Maize**

2915. SHRI SOLIPETA RAMACHANDRA REDDY: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that open market price of maize is below the Minimum Support Price;

(b) if so, whether Government have advised the Food Corporation of India to open adequate number of purchase centres for accepting maize at the Minimum Support Price of Rs. 445/- per quintal;

(c) the number of such centres to be opened in Andhra Pradesh; and

(d) The quantity of maize purchased so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN): (a) to (c) To avoid distress sale of maize by the farmers below the Minimum Support Price, the Food Corporation of India has opened 44 purchase centres in Andhra Pradesh in consultation with the State Government. The State Government nominee, *i.e.* AP MARKFED has also opened 32 purchase centres for procuring maize under Price Support Operation at the Minimum Support Price to help the farmers.

(b) As on 16.3.2001, a quantity of 20451 MTs and 18891 MTs of maize has been procured by the FCI and the AP MARKFED respectively.

**Buffer stock of sugar**

2916. SHRI NARENDRA MOHAN:

SHRI P. K. MAHESHWARI:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that this year sugar industry is carrying an excessive stock of about 60 lakh tonnes resulting into additional interest burden of Rs. 467 crores;

(b) if so, whether Government are creating a buffer stock of at